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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/829,269

04/09/2001

Albert J. Sturm JR.

P19.12-0036

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04/24/2006

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EXAMINER

JIMENEZ, MARC QUEMUEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3726

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/829,269	STURM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marc Jimenez	3726	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-21 and 53-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-21, 53, 54, 57, 58 and 64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 55, 56 and 59-63 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 12-18, 20, 21, 53, 54, 57, 58 and 64** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Landolt et al. (US4257201).

Landolt et al. teach a an elongated damping structure comprising a plurality of overlapping elongated segments **20,19,34** forming at least a portion of a housing, wherein proximate overlapping segments **20,19,34** are joined with damping material **112** disposed therebetween to define a corresponding fastening region, and wherein similar adjacent fastening regions **108** are spaced apart from each other along a cross-section of the housing taken transversally with respect to elongation of the overlapping segment (see figure 3), and wherein the fastening regions are disposed substantially along the length of the corresponding opposed overlapping elongated segments. The claims are not specific as to the particular size of the fastening regions, only that they are “disposed substantially along the length of the corresponding opposed overlapping elongated segments”. The fastening regions of Landolt et al. clearly have a length and is disposed “substantially” along the length of the corresponding opposed overlapping elongated segments. It appears that applicant is attempting to claim that the

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fastening regions have a length that is substantially the same as the length of the overlapping elongated segments, however, this is not what is claimed.

Regarding claims 13, 53 and 54, note the rigid plate **34** and the U-shaped housing **14**.

Regarding claims 14-15, note the flanges **30**.

Regarding claims 16-17, the damping material is viscoelastic (col. 6, lines 1-2).

Regarding claim 18, note the linear bearings **116**.

Regarding claim 20, note the overtravel stops (to the right of lead line 102 in figure 2).

Regarding claim 21, note the rod **102** and the clearance aperture (to the left of lead line 102 in figure 2).

Regarding claim 57, note the rails **116**.

Regarding claim 58, note the movable trucks **30** (movable by **10**).

Regarding claim 64, note in figure 5, the elongated rigid plate **34**, first plate **46**, second plate **19**, each plate having a first longitudinal edge joined to the rigid plate **34** and a second longitudinal edge spaced apart and disposed away from the rigid plate **34**, the first plate **46** and the second plate **47** being coupled together through at least one damping material **112**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. **Claim 19** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landolt et al.

Landolt et al. teach the invention cited with the exception of having a plurality of fasteners.

However, official notice is taken that it was well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have used fasteners, since the use of fasteners will securely fasten parts together.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have provided the invention of Landolt et al. with a plurality of fasteners, in order to securely fasten the parts together.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 55, 56 and 59-63 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 3-31-06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

7. Applicant only argument is that Landolt et al. do not teach that the fastening regions extend along the length of the overlapping segments (page 8, last 4 lines to page 9, first 3 lines of the response filed 3-31-06). However, the fastening regions of Landolt et al. clearly have a length and is disposed “substantially” along the length of the corresponding opposed overlapping

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elongated segments. It appears that applicant is attempting to claim that the fastening regions have a length that is substantially the same as the length of the overlapping elongated segments, however, this is not what is claimed. Applicant's figures appear to only show the cross-section of the fastening regions. Therefore, it is difficult to determine if applicant means that the fastening regions extend substantially along the entire length of the overlapping elongated segments.

Conclusion

8. This is a request for continued examination. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Interviews After Final

9. Applicant note that an interview after a final rejection will not be granted unless the intended purpose and content of the interview is presented briefly, in writing (the agenda of the interview must be in writing) to clarify issues for appeal requiring only nominal further consideration. Interviews merely to restate arguments of record or to discuss new limitations will be denied. See MPEP 714.13 and 713.09.

Contact Information

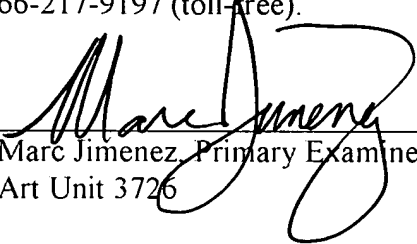
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc Jimenez whose telephone number is (571) 272-4530. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on (571) 272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Marc Jimenez, Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3726

MJ
09/23/05